Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CONAKR 01787 271632Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 NEA-10 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 /069 W
----------048543 280052Z /63
R 271249Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3551
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BISSAU
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1787

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINR, PGOV, NI, XA, GV
SUBJECT: GUINEAN ATTITUDES TOWARD NIGERIA

REF: STATE 208244

FOLLOWING IS RESPONSE KEYED TO REFTEL:

-- A. GOG HAS EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH PRESENT NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT. CONSULTATIONS ON AFRICAN MATTERS ARE FULL AND FREQUENT, ACCORDING TO NIGERIAN EMBASSY. GON KEPT MEDIATION AND AFTER BENIN MERCENARY INVASION, OF WHICH NIGERIA WAS ONE INVESTIGATOR. TOURE PRAISED NIGERIA IN EARLY SEPTEMBER 1977 SPEECH, CALLING ATTENTION TO NIGERIA AS VAST POTENTIAL MARKET FOR GUINEA AND TO HER NATURAL GAS RESERVES WHICH COULD COMPLEMENT GUINEA'S BAUXITE ORES BY ENABLING ALUMINUM PRODUCTION IN NIGERIA. NIGERIA HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO BECOME PARTNER IN DABOLA BAUXITE MINING PROJECT PENDING
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PAGE 02 CONAKR 01787 271632Z

FEASIBILITY STUDIES. NIGERIA IS ALREADY PARTNER IN MIFERGUI-NIMBA, THE PROMISING GUINEAN IRON-ORE PROJECT. SEKOU TOURE PRAISED FESTAC AS FIRST AUTHENTICALLY AFRICAN CULTURAL FESTIVAL (PREVIOUS ONE BEING FRENCH-RUN, TOURE BELIEVES). MRS. TOURE, ISMAEL TOURE AND PRIMIN WERE WELL RECEIVED IN LAGOS AND GOT FLOWN HOME IN GON'S GRUMMAN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

GULFSTREAM II. GON TRIED TO INDUCE TOURE TO VISIT
FESTAC BUT FEARS OF MERCENARY ATTACK KEPT HIM HOME.
NIGERIA ALLEGEDLY OFFERED GUINEA ECOWAS SECRETARY
GENERALSHIP BUT TOURE, IN FIT OF STATESMANSHIP,
DECLINED, SAYING IT WAS BETTER NOT TO ANTAGONIZE AND
REPEL CONSERVATIVE AFRICAN STATES; GUINEA WAS THEN OFFERED
ECOWAS DEPUTY SECGEN INSTEAD. TOURE GRACEFULLY WITHDREW GUINEAN
CANDIDACY FOR FAO PERMANENT COUNCIL SEAT WHEN
NIGERIA PRESSED ITS CONDIDACY.

-- B. POLITICALLY SEKOU TOURE PROFESSES TO VIEW
NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT AS "PROGRESSIVE REGIME." A
ACCORDING TO NIGERIAN EMBOFF, EARLY IN 1977 TOURE
URGED GON TO BECOME MORE OF A LEADER OF AFRICAN "PROGRESSIVES"
AND NOT BE SO POWER-SHY. GON TOLD TOURE HOWEVER,
THAT NIGERIA WANTS TO AVOID DEFINITIVE SPLIT IN
AFRICA BETWEEN CONSERVATIVE PROGRESSIVE
BLOCS AND TO KEEP AFRICA MOVING TOGETHER; SO-CALLED
CONSERVATIVES WERE IN ANY CASE EDGING HISTORICALLY
INTO AFRICAN MAINSTREAM. THERE IS SOME INDICATION
THAT TOURE MAY HAVE SINCE MOVED CLOSER TO
NIGERIAN VIEW. TOURE WAS PLEASED WITH NIGERIA'S
"PROGRESSIVE" STAND ON ANGOLA ISSUE.

-- C. TOURE CLEARLY HOPES NIGERIA WILL USE ITS
POWER TO SPEAK OUT MORE FOR AFRICA, PREFERABLY AS
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"PROGRESSIVE", SO CONTINENT WILL NOT REMAIN
RUDDERLESS BOAT. TOURE REPORTEDLY HAS FOLLOWED
NIGERIA'S IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS WITH U.S.,
PRINCIPALLY ANDREW YOUNG, AND IS ENCOURAGED BY IT.
FORTHCOMING OBASANJO AND CARTER VISITS TO U.S. AND
NIGERIA WILL BE WELL RECEIVED IN CONAKRY. BOTH
NIGERIANS AND TOURE ARE PROBABLY CONVINCED THAT
U.S. HAS MADE PROGRESS TOWARD SEEING WORLD AS
AFRICANS SEE IT, AND CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS BIG
IMPROVEMENT OVER WHAT PRECEEDED IT.
MAINLAND

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
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